

# The Sun

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equip him for the struggle in a world which even now continues to apply tests more searching than any college entrance board ever devised.

What will the psychological experts do with the not rare young men who respond but feebly to all suggestions except those that involve the thought of uninterrupted loafing? Are they to be horrible examples, criminals under extension of the anti-loafing laws, or are they to be taught to idle easily, with superior grace and skill? If instruction in this art be given, the university campus would be always crowded.

Unfortunately, psychologists leave no room for self-determination. Will not this grave principle of world politics become entangled in the academic reform?

For Much Cheaper Food.

Army officers in the Quartermaster's Department at Washington are asking Congress appropriations based upon their belief that food prices will not be lower but higher. Well, if they are, or if they are anything like as high, there will be nobody to blame for it but the Washington Administration. All that is needed now to send the cost of living down is to let the natural laws work.

It is only the Government's keeping war time food prices jacked up that can prevent the whole cost of living going down and going far down. The country's wheat crop this year may amount to 1,000,000,000 bushels, or it may amount to one, two, or even three hundred million bushels more than that. But whether the crop is 1,000,000,000 or 1,000,000,000 bushels, with the Government paying the farmers the contract price of \$2.25 a bushel there will be more wheat in this land by hundreds of millions of bushels than the American people can consume and than the Government can sell abroad. If, in spite of such an overabundance, the Government compels the American consumers to buy their bread on the basis of \$2.50 wheat, the Government can keep other food prices up; the Government can create famine prices in food; the Government can cause severe want among the American people.

But if the Government lets the price of wheat go down to American consumers by putting the wheat on the open market, subject to the laws of supply and demand, the price of all other grains and foods must go down with the price of wheat. If corn goes down, for example, beef and mutton must go down; milk and butter and cheese go down; poultry and eggs go down. As these basic foods go down everything else goes down.

If the United States Government, although paying the farmer \$2.25 a bushel, smashes the price of wheat to the consumer, as the United States Government should do, the Congress appropriating authority need not consider 10 per cent. higher food for the army. It may be evident that the army rations with all other foods to a dead certainty will be lower, very much lower than they are now or than they have been in many a day.

The German Elections.

A victory for the Majority Socialists, the party of which Ebert and Scheidemann are leaders and which has been practically in control of the Government at Berlin since the armistice, and the overwhelming defeat of the Independent Socialists, the party of the Spartacus group under the former leadership of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, are the most important results, so far as the outside world is concerned, of the elections just held in Germany. The purpose of the elections was to choose delegates to a national assembly, which will reorganize the German Government, adopt a constitution for the new German state, and eventually accept terms of peace with the Allied nations.

The defeat of the Independent Socialists was forecast in the failure of the Spartacus group to gain support and in the death of its leaders. They had fought to establish their own rule and had opposed the holding of the elections. The principal opponents of the Majority Socialists were thus adherents of what are called the "bourgeois parties." Of these, the German Democrats, who correspond to the members of the former Liberal party in the empire, and the Christian party, the former Clerical party, showed the greatest strength. The results of the elections so far received indicate that a coalition of these parties will form a majority in the assembly, and that they will thus be able to hold the Majority Socialists in check. But there is in reality nothing so far to show what will be the eventual political alignment.

The present Christian party is a union of the Catholic party, formerly the Clericals, with the Protestants, who have not before appeared as a political unit. The Christian party, it has been asserted, would work with the Majority Socialists. If that should be the case the combination would make a safe working majority in the assembly. The Christian party may be expected to stand for the restoration of order and for a stable, sane government; at the same time it is not likely that the Clericals have abandoned all their former contentions regarding the conduct of schools, the control of religious property and certain matters of civil government. The People's party, which is made up largely of the Junker element, and which is supposed to represent the royalists, has not shown sufficient strength to make it an important factor in the result.

The elections were held with comparatively small evidences of disorder except in centres where the Spartacus group still shows some strength. In view of the fact that voting upon

a large national issue was a new experience to the great body of the electorate, it is said that the elections passed with little confusion and with a high appreciation of the new responsibility which had been placed upon the people. Women, who now have right of franchise, exercised it as freely as the men, and many persons who under the former regime had been denied franchise, were restored to their political rights. In this way the elections became a very complete expression of the wishes of the German people.

The rather meagre details now at hand indicate that in many respects the voters adhered to their former political affiliations; this is shown especially in districts or cities where former Clerical or Liberal majorities prevailed. The important industrial centres of the Rhine valley, of Silesia and Saxony do not show, as it was said they would show, any great gains for the Spartacus group or the Independent Socialists. In fact, the elections indicate that in the face of a serious crisis brought about by military defeat and national humiliation the Germans acquitted themselves creditably and displayed a sanity that gives promise of the establishment of a stable government.

Protecting Women in Industry.

As a result of the unexampled extension of women's activities in industry caused by the necessities of the war, the protective statutes enacted by the Legislature in the past must now be thoroughly overhauled and amended to make them meet existing conditions.

In his annual message Governor Smith recommended immediate consideration of the problems involved, and the Women's Joint Legislative Conference, representing the New York Women's Trade Union League, the New York State Consumers' League, the Consumers' League of the City of New York, the Young Women's Christian Association and the Woman Suffrage party of New York, has adopted a programme of legislation which provides for an eight-hour day, a minimum wage, health insurance, and protection for office workers, employees of traction companies and elevator operators.

The details of the measures by which it is proposed to safeguard women in industry have not yet been agreed upon. Plainly, they afford ground for diversity of opinion. The matter of a minimum wage is one concerning which there are many honest differences. Health insurance presents numerous obscure problems. But not only the desirability but the imperative necessity of shielding women from dangerous or unhealthy conditions and guarding them from exploitation is obvious. The duty is a double one; the State owes it to the women of today and it owes it to the citizens of the future.

It is not mere sentiment which dictates special consideration for women workers, though such sentiment is based on true wisdom and reason and cannot be ignored. The broadest statesmanship requires the State to recognize and provide for the maintenance and health of the prospective mothers of its future citizens.

In the past it has been urged that the vast majority of women in industry were only temporary workers, who would quickly marry and quit their jobs. In consequence of this theory was widely held that special protection was not needed for them, apparently in the belief that what happened to them in the period of their industrial employment was of no consequence. This attitude toward a serious public problem has been generally abandoned. Moreover, it must be acknowledged that more and more women who engage in industry plan to make it their life work. Whether they do or not, however, they are entitled every minute they are at work to every protection the State can provide for them.

In such matters the obligation of New York is plain. The Empire State with its thousands of occupations open to women, with its population recruited from all parts of the world, with its position of leadership in public matters, must be a pioneer and not a follower. It must blaze the trail, not lag behind, in the task of making working conditions suitable for the worker and conducive to the well being and prosperity of employee and employer alike.

Young King Manuel Hesitates.

While most of the world is declaring war for democracy and thrones are tumbling like card houses all over Europe, a Portuguese faction has undertaken to end the nation's periodical political upheavals by restoring its discarded monarchical rule. According to information received by the Spanish Government, the revolutionary movement, which started in the northern part of Portugal, the section of the country where much of the recent unrest had its origin, has spread to Lisbon, the capital.

The royalists have asked their former king, Manuel, to return to his throne. The young king has been living for the last few years quite comfortably at Twickenham, near London, and has issued a statement to the effect that he disapproves of the attempt to replace the Portuguese crown on his head.

There may be in his mind some doubt of the ultimate success of the revolution. There is, too, a likelihood that he is weighing the comforts of an English home against a ruler's chance of living in Portugal.

He was in the carriage with his father when the latter was assassinated; he hurried out of the royal palace at Lisbon just in time to save his own life. Since then President Ben-

NARDINO MACHADO has been exiled by revolutionists and MACHADO's successor, SIDONIO PÁEZ, killed by another party of revolutionists in the streets of Lisbon. Young MANUEL is showing fact as well as discretion in hesitating to offer himself as a sacrifice to monarchical institutions.

Only Two Years Afterward.

Two years ago to-day President Wilson said to the Senate:

"The statement of both the groups of nations now arrayed against one another have said, in terms that could not be misinterpreted that it was no part of the purpose they had in mind to crush their antagonists. But the implications of these assurances may not be equally clear to all—may not be the same on both sides of the water. I think it will be serviceable if I attempt to set forth what we understand them to be."

"They imply, first of all, that it must be a peace without victory. It is not pleasant to say this. I beg that I may be permitted to put my own interpretation upon it and that it may be understood that no other interpretation was in my thought. I am seeking only to face realities and to face them without soft concealments. Victory would mean peace forced upon the loser, a victor's terms imposed upon the vanquished. It would be accepted in humiliation, under duress, at an intolerable sacrifice, and would leave a sting, a resentment, a bitter memory upon which terms of peace would rest, not permanently, but only as upon quicksand."

We recall this remarkable utterance merely to illustrate the ease with which events dispose of words. There was no peace without victory, and victory meant "a victor's terms imposed upon the vanquished"; yet we hear nothing from Paris to indicate that Mr. Wilson still believes that the terms of peace ought to be built upon victory will rest "not permanently, but as upon quicksand."

Time flies, and rhetoric.

In his address on the late WILLIAM F. SHEPHERD at the memorial service of the Legislature last night Justice Woodward recalled the interesting fact that as long ago as 1910 Mr. SHEPHERD advocated "an international court to settle controversies between nations as our own Supreme Court does of disputes between States."

His interest in this idea, so familiar now, yet by now more tersely described, reveals a side of Mr. SHEPHERD unfamiliar to those who knew him first as a politician of force and ability and later as a lawyer of the character and accomplishments.

A bill has been introduced in the Senate to allow honorably discharged soldiers to retain their uniforms. The measure is a most serviceable and worthy Uncle Sam in comparison to its value to the veteran who wore it.

May it be said that under the new toll rates the telephone system has been "burlesqued?"

The constellation of O'RYAN is about to sweep westward.

In courteous recognition of the earnestness which characterized THE SUN's precatory request for information concerning Baltimore's wet season, Baltimore's pinkest Congressman, gave prompt response in the House. Said Senator, somewhat and the wet season of Baltimore at this season I want to say that we do sell squirrel whiskey which makes a fellow jump around a little, but we do not sell, as they do in Philadelphia, a brand called Eagle whiskey which makes him fairly fly."

Cryptic, somewhat, but so far as it is informing, said, in the name of all pretty squirrels and sin challenging eagles we protest!

Observe him now in all his pride and presumption, but there will come a time when the most fastidious and discriminating connoisseur of beverages will not look a fig bottle in the cork.

A French airman has shown that a safe landing may be made on a roof with a flying machine. Great care should be exercised to keep this in mind before the next time a climbing second-story man, fire escape expert, and even more particularly from silk left specialists who now follow the old fashioned, arduous, slow but safe fashion of leading their lost on motor trucks.

It seems to be Marshal Foch's contention that the French watch on the Rhine has now become from ancient rights and present necessities a timepiece of eternity.

Are legislative enactments against immigration likely to be necessary when we have national bony dry prohibition in effect?

It is all very well to say that the new Jagerfontein diamond weighs 388 carats, but this is only a figure. It is weighing nearly a quarter of a pound and so large that it would take a lumber nineteen feet tall to wear it with grace.

In Germany votin' has succeeded verboten.

Prohibition and the Prophet.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I was much interested in reading in THE SUN the letter from Dr. Delmer E. Croft, for I had read your editorial comment concerning his 1919 prophecy.

There is no denying the fact that, judging solely by the events he enumerates in his letter, he has proved a most remarkable prophet, but would it not be in order to ask the doctor to explain his prediction with regard to national prohibition? If I remember correctly, he said that it would never come to pass and that there would be a strong popular and legislative reaction against it.

I notice that he avoids mention of this.

E. S. HOTT.